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French from the beginning have instructed them in the arts of military and administrative organization, sanitation, commerce and industry. A chapter on railroads gives much information concerning the various lines, constructed and proposed. The author reverses the general saying that colonies are made for commerce and expounds the commercial and industrial development of the French possessions from the standpoint of commerce as a necessity for the colonies. Agriculture, grazing, hunting and fishing as occupations in this land are considered in detail. The book ends with a description of the native population, principally to make clear the general characteristics of the indigenous society in their bearings on the French colonial policy.

ROBERT M. BROWN.

**L'Afrique équatoriale française.** Par Maurice Rondet-Saint. iv and 312 pp.

Map. Plon-Nourrit et Cie., Paris, 1911. Frs. 3.50.  $7\frac{1}{2} \times 4\frac{1}{2}$ .

After the renown, which the author acquired through two preceding works, of which one was crowned by the Academy, this sketchy disposition of the future of the African colonies of France is disappointing. He has made all too scant use of his studies in Gaboon itself. His recommendations seem trivial when measured by the pressing need of the metropolis to develop colonies and equally when measured by the tragedy which now saddens French colonial life. Is Gaboon to be a great and a productive empire, or is it going to drain France of its resources and destroy the African peoples whom the French have undertaken to civilize? With that question coming foremost it is irksome to find that any man who has visited that coast and its rearward territories stops at the threshold to debate the preferability of shipping non-commissioned officers steerage or second class. Not many Frenchmen go to the Congo, few indeed outside the army of functionaries of the government and clerks of trading companies. Surely the stay-at-home Frenchman is entitled to hear a voice speaking with true information about this land, which may be an empire or may be a cemetery, he knows not as yet which. Instead of grave consideration of the burden which France has assumed, he finds here the recommendation that Africa will not really pay until Thomas Cook has exploited it for the tourist trade, until the motor clubs have established petrol stations along the Congo from Banana to Equatorville, until the Société Cynétique has attracted the big game hunters away from British and German East Africa, until French yachtsmen forsake Cowes and Kiel for the long cruise to Dakar. It is surprising that any observer could have traversed this territory with so scant regard of the great drama which is there and now in action.

WILLIAM CHURCHILL.

**A Colony in the Making; or, Sport and Profit in British East Africa.** By Lord Cranworth. xiv and 359 pp. Map, ill., index. Macmillan

Co., New York, 1912. \$4.  $9 \times 6$ .

A critical survey of British East Africa as to its economic prospects, conditions favorable to development and drawbacks, such as distance from Europe and the nearly complete absence of minerals. Facts relating to these topics fill two-thirds of the book; the balance is devoted to game, with emphasis on the nature and habits of the animals. The chief economic assets are found in the wide-spread highlands covering large areas from 4,000 to 8,500 feet above the sea. The climate of the highlands is unsurpassed. The soil is rich, abundant and waiting only to be tilled. No better grazing can be found. The rivers are abundant and many of them clear and beautiful. The forests are almost unsurpassed in Africa. Labor in the Protectorate is plentiful and intelligent.

The only important mineral resource is the crystalline soda in Lake Magadi, sixty miles southwest of Nairobi, the finest known soda lake in the world. A branch railroad is being constructed to it, and a large company has been organized to work the field. The lake contains over 200 million tons of soda of extraordinary purity.